

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-79 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 11-14, 26, 27, 38, 39, 41, 43, 50, 51, 53, 54, 63, 64, and 75 are amended, and claims 76-79 are added.

In the Office Action dated June 25, 2004, the examiner rejects claims 1-3, 11, 13-16, 24, 26-28, 36, 38-41, 49, 51-53, 61, 63-66 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235). The examiner rejects all of the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over one or more of Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235), Butt, et al (US 6,754,829), and Davis, et al (US 6,088,450).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Regarding the rejection of claims 3, 16, 28, 41, 53 and 66, the examiner states that Lipkin teaches “determining that the requesting module owns the certificate,” and cites Lipkin at col. 7, lines 22-33. Lipkin does not teach determining that the requesting module owns the certificate.

Lipkin purportedly teaches a system check for the validity of a request for access to service. The validity check involves an examination of all certificates in the chain and the client code to ensure that the certificates and the client code are signed with the proper private keys, through use of corresponding public keys (Lipkin, col. 7, lines 22-39). This is not determining that the requesting module owns the certificate. Indeed, in Lipkin, each client company optionally generates its own public/private key pairs and matching certificates for each client code module assuming the role represented by key zero (Lipkin, col. 7, lines 15-

18), where key zero is associated with a role defining a set of services that may be performed in the role (Lipkin, col. 7, lines 4-6).

To be sure, Lipkin purportedly provides a method and apparatus for providing a first computer program module with the ability to access a service from a second computer program module after determining whether the first computer program module has been digitally signed by an authority having power to confer access for the service. Alternatively, Lipkin purportedly teaches verifying that the first computer program module includes a chain of certificates establishing a chain of authorization for the service by verifying that the first certificate in the chain is signed by an entity that is originally authorized to confer access for the service, and verifying that subsequent certificates in the chain are signed by entities that have been delegated authorization to confer access for the service. (Lipkin, col. 1, lines 48-65).

Accordingly, Lipkin does not disclose, teach or suggest, determining that the requesting module owns the certificate, as recited in claims 3 (and claims 4-10 dependent thereon), 11, 12, 14 (and claims 15 and 16 dependent thereon), 17 (and claims 18-23 dependent thereon), 28 (and claims 29-35 dependent thereon), 39 (and claims 40 and 41 dependent thereon), 42 (and claims 43-48 dependent thereon), 53 (and claims 54-60 dependent thereon), 64 (and claims 65 and 66 dependent thereon), 67 (and claims 68-73 dependent thereon), and 77.

Regarding amended claims 2 and 27, Lipkin fails to teach that determining whether the certificate authorizes processing includes verifying whether the certificate has expired.

Regarding amended claim 12, Lipkin further fails to teach a certificate including an owner field that identifies the owner of the certificate.

Regarding amended independent claim 13, Lipkin fails to teach receiving specified parameters from the requesting module including an authorization interface of the requesting module and an authorization interface of an original requestor of the requesting module, if applicable. Lipkin's teachings are limited to interaction between only a first and a second computer program module, purportedly providing the first program module with the ability to access a service from the second computer program module. Lipkin fails to teach interaction between two or more modules requesting service from an adjunct program module.

Similarly, regarding amended independent claims 38, 51, and 63, Lipkin fails to teach interaction between three or more computer program modules involving a request to access a service from one of the three or more computer program modules. More specifically, in claim 38, Lipkin fails to teach receiving an authorization interface from the requesting module (the direct requestor) and any requestor of the requesting module (indirect requestor(s)). Regarding claim 51, Lipkin fails to teach requesting authorization data from the requesting module (as a direct requestor) and any requestors of the requesting module (as indirect requestors), or receiving at least one certificate from the direct and indirect requestors. Regarding claim 63, Lipkin fails to teach receiving a request from a requesting module, wherein the requesting module received the request from at least one prior requestor module, the request originating from an originating prior requestor module, or requesting authorization from the requesting module regarding the originating prior requestor module.

Regarding amended independent claim 26, Lipkin fails to teach receiving a certificate that includes an ownership field that identifies the owner of the certificate and an expiration field that identifies an expiration of the certificate. Lipkin teaches only that, for purposes of its disclosure, a certificate is a signed electronic document that certifies that something is

true, and typically indicates that someone has ownership of a public key. Further, that in invention of Lipkin, a certificate can indicate that an entity can have access to services represented by a key, and may include the identity of a signing authority as well as a digital signature produced with a private key (that can be validated with a corresponding public key). (Lipkin, col. 5, lines 7-15).

Applicant reserves amendment or traversing argument directed to the 35 USC § 102 rejection of independent claim 1 pending further disposition of claim 1 in view of the amendments to the claims dependent thereon.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

As specifically discussed above, Lipkin fails to disclose or teach at least the above-referenced features of the present invention as claimed. Butt and Davis also fail to teach the above-reference features, even if combined with Lipkin.

Butt purportedly teaches an operating system for an operator of a console to manage a device. In Butt, an operating system independent session certificate is obtained by the operator of the console executing a first operating system, from a trusted core of the device executing a second operating system, to authenticate identity and group membership of the operator. The operating system independent session certificate is provided by the operator to the device executing a third operating system, along with a management request. And, the device determines whether the authenticated operator has necessary access privilege to perform the management request based at least in part on the authenticated group membership of the operator set forth in the operating system independent session certificate.

Davis purportedly teaches a wireless authentication system to control an operating state of a computer based on the proximity of an authorized user to the first node. The

wireless authentication system comprises a security device implemented within the computer and a user authentication token in possession of the authorized user. The security device generates a challenge and transmits it to the token. In response, the token generates and transmits a response to the security device if the token is within a predetermined distance from the security device. Thereafter, the authorized user can access the computer because it is in an operational state.

Accordingly, Lipkin, whether alone or in combination with one or more of Butt and Davis, fail to teach a method and system for authorizing processing of an adjunct program module by one or more requesting program modules, as claimed by applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that at least independent claims 13, 26, 38, 51 and 63 patentably define over Lipkin, Butt and Davis. Reconsideration of the 35 USC § 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims Added by this Response and Amendment

Dependent claims 76-79 are added by this response and amendment to more completely cover certain aspects of applicant's invention. In addition to being patentable for at least the reasons described above for respective independent claim 63, claims 76-79 each recite additional elements patentable over the prior art. Claims 76-79 find support in portions of the specification including, but not limited to, the following:

Claims 76 and 77: paragraph 61;

Claim 78: paragraph 62; and

Claim 79: paragraph 63.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1782(303313.01)
Application No.: 09/773,256
Office Action Dated: June 25, 2004

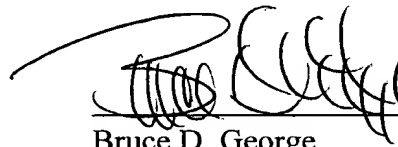
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at any time, and especially in the event that a telephone interview might advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Sept. 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", is written over a horizontal line.

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